

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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R 042102Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 101576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING EXCERPTS

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING  
OF MAY 3, 1977 ARE TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE VICE PRESI-  
DENT INTENDS TO ACHIEVE IN MEETING VORSTER SOMETIME NEXT  
MONTH.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER RIGHT NOW THAN WHAT WAS THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WAS PUT OUT AT THE WHITE HOUSE, I BELIEVE  
TODAY AT 12 - 12:15. AND I WILL READ FROM IT, AND I AM NOT  
REALLY PREPARED TO GO MUCH BEYOND IT.

THIS IS IN THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT.

"A FEW WEEKS AGO, I MENTIONED THAT I HAD ASKED THE VICE  
PRESIDENT TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH  
SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN THE DEVELOPMENT  
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OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD AFRICA.

"IN KEEPING WITH THAT ROLE, THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL MEET  
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
WHILE HE IS IN VIENNA.

"PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, LIKE OURSELVES, HAS AN INTEREST  
IN MEETING TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

I WILL SKIP A COUPLE LINE ABOUT THE BRITISH INITIATIVE.

A: THE TALKS IN VIENNA WILL ENABLE THE VICE PRESIDENT IN MY BEHALF TO DISCUSS THESE COMPLEX ISSUES WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER, AND TO STATE OUR VIEWS ON THE CRUCIAL ROLE WHICH CAN BE PLAYED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN BRINGING THE NEEDED CHANGES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

Q: WILL ANYONE FROM THIS BUILDING BE ACCOMPANYING THE VICE PRESIDENT?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: MR. SMITH YESTERDAY, IN SALISBURY, SAID THAT HE SEES EVEN LESS CHANCE OF THIS NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE SUCCEEDING THAN THE KISSINGER PLAN DID. HE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS, BUT THE MOST PROMINENT SEEMED TO BE THE STATEMENT BY THE BLACK MILITANTS THAT THEY -- WHATEVER THEY SAID -- THEY DON'T WANT NEO-COLONIALS OR SOMEBODY GETTING INVOLVED.

DO YOU CARE TO ADDRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS IN THIS --

A: NO.

Q: --NOW SPREADING CAMPAIGN BY THE UNITED STATES?

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A: I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT ITS SUCCESS. WE ARE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PROCESS. THE SECRETARY HASN'T TALKED YET WITH DR. OWEN, WHICH HE'S GOING TO DO ON FRIDAY, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT. THE MISSION IS NOT YET UNDER WAY.

I DON'T THINK I'LL COMMENT ON MR. SMITH.

Q: ON FACTUAL MATTERS, ARE THERE ANY OTHER MEETINGS YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT? SO FAR WE KNOW ABOUT THE SECRETARY AND OWEN, MONDALE AND VORSTER; AND ANDREW YOUNG WILL BE TOURING AFRICA.

A: PERHAPS.

Q: WELL -- YES. GOING TO AFRICA AND POSSIBLY TOURING IT.

A: YES.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE -- ANYBODY ELSE THAT IS GOING TO BE BROUGHT INTO THIS PROCESS THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT NOW?

A: YOU MEAN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

Q: YES. IN THE SENSE THAT, YOU KNOW, ARE WE GOING TO SEE ANYBODY -- ARE YOU GOING TO SEE ANYBODY?

A: NO. I THINK THAT THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE FIVE POWER GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY DATE ON THAT -- YOU KNOW, NOTHING REALLY TO LOOK FORWARD ON THAT.

Q: YOU MEAN YOUNG IS NOT SETTLED YET? HE IS GOING TO THE IVORY COAST.  
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A: YOU MEAN FOR THE AMBASSADORS?

Q: YES, BUT HE ALSO MAY GO THROUGH AFRICA.

A: WELL, THAT IS JUST SIMPLY NOT TIED DOWN; AND I CAN'T, YOU KNOW, GIVE YOU A TIE-DOWN ON IT BECAUSE APPARENTLY SOME TECHNICAL DETAILS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT.

Q: HASN'T HE ANNOUNCED HIS TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE -- AT THE UN?

A: I SIMPLY -- HE MAY HAVE HAD ANY NUMBER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS APPEARING IN ANY NUMBER OF FORUMS (LAUGHTER), AND THAT'S NOT REFERENCE TO THE AMBASSADOR. I MEAN THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES.

ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT IN FACT ALL THE DETAILS ARE NOT TIED DOWN.

Q: YOU SAY THERE MAY BE FURTHER FIVE-NATION ACTIVITY ON NAMIBIA. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A REPORT THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FIVE NATIONS SOUTH AFRICA HAS DECIDED TO DEFER OR DELAY ITS PLANS FOR WHAT IT CALLS "INDEPENDENCE OR SOUTHWEST AFRICA"?

A: NO. I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND THE FORMAL STATEMENT THAT WAS ISSUED AFTER THE MEETINGS -- WHEN? -- THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I GUESS.

I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT. I'LL BE GLAD TO READ

YOU THAT COMMUNIQUE, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE PRO-  
DUCTIVE IN THE WAY YOU'RE ASKING, AND I DON'T COMMENT ON  
THE PRESS REPORTS. I CAN'T.

Q: WILL MR. MONDALE BE DISCUSSING THE INTERNAL SOUTH  
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AFRICAN AFFAIRS WITH MR. VORSTER?

A: I REALLY THINK THAT YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE TO  
WRESTLE WITH THIS TEXT AS FAR AS GOING ANY FURTHER. I  
HAVE NOTHING ON IT.

Q: YOU HAVE NO GUIDANCE ON THAT?

A: I HAVE NO GUIDANCE ON IT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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